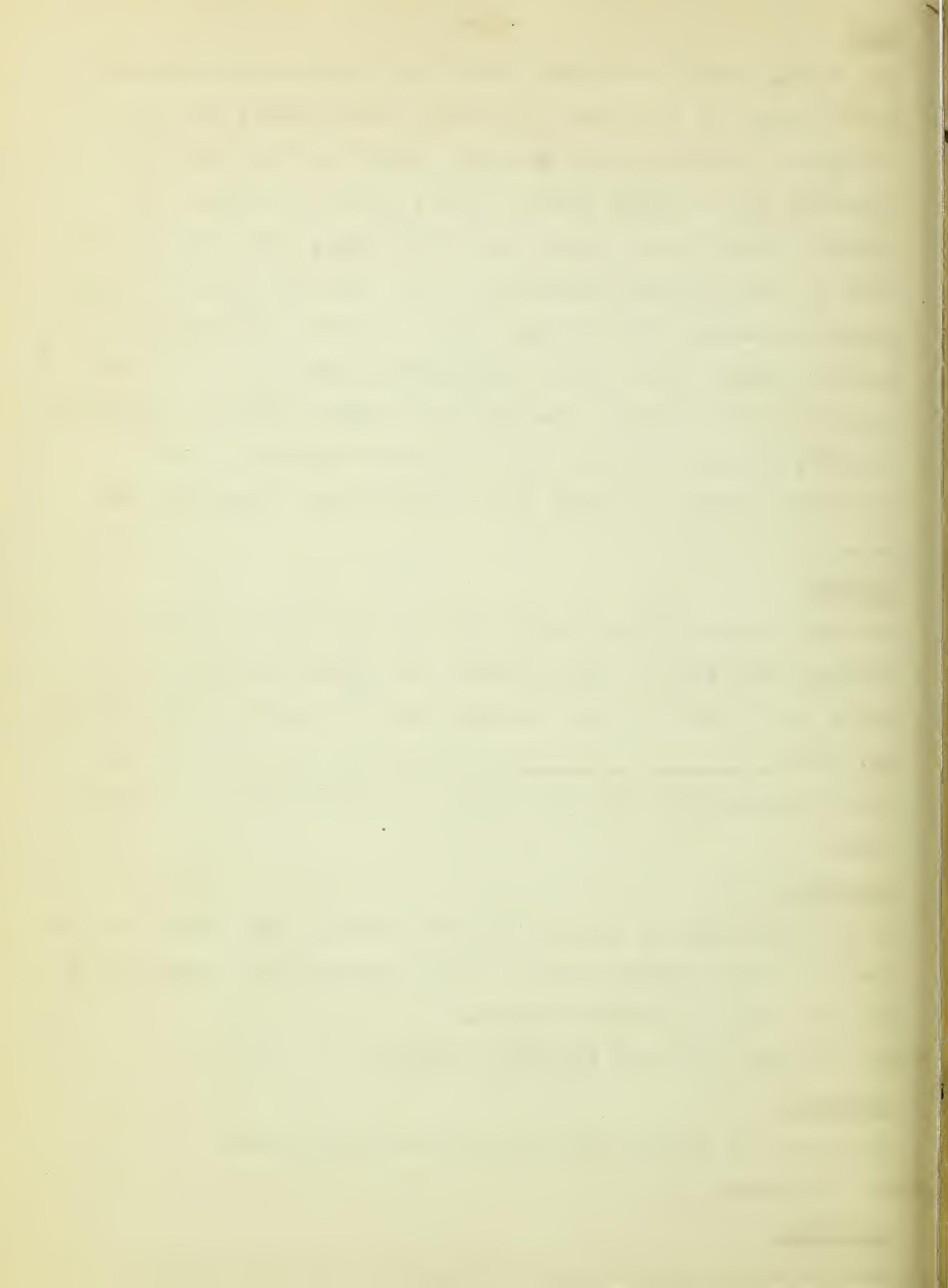


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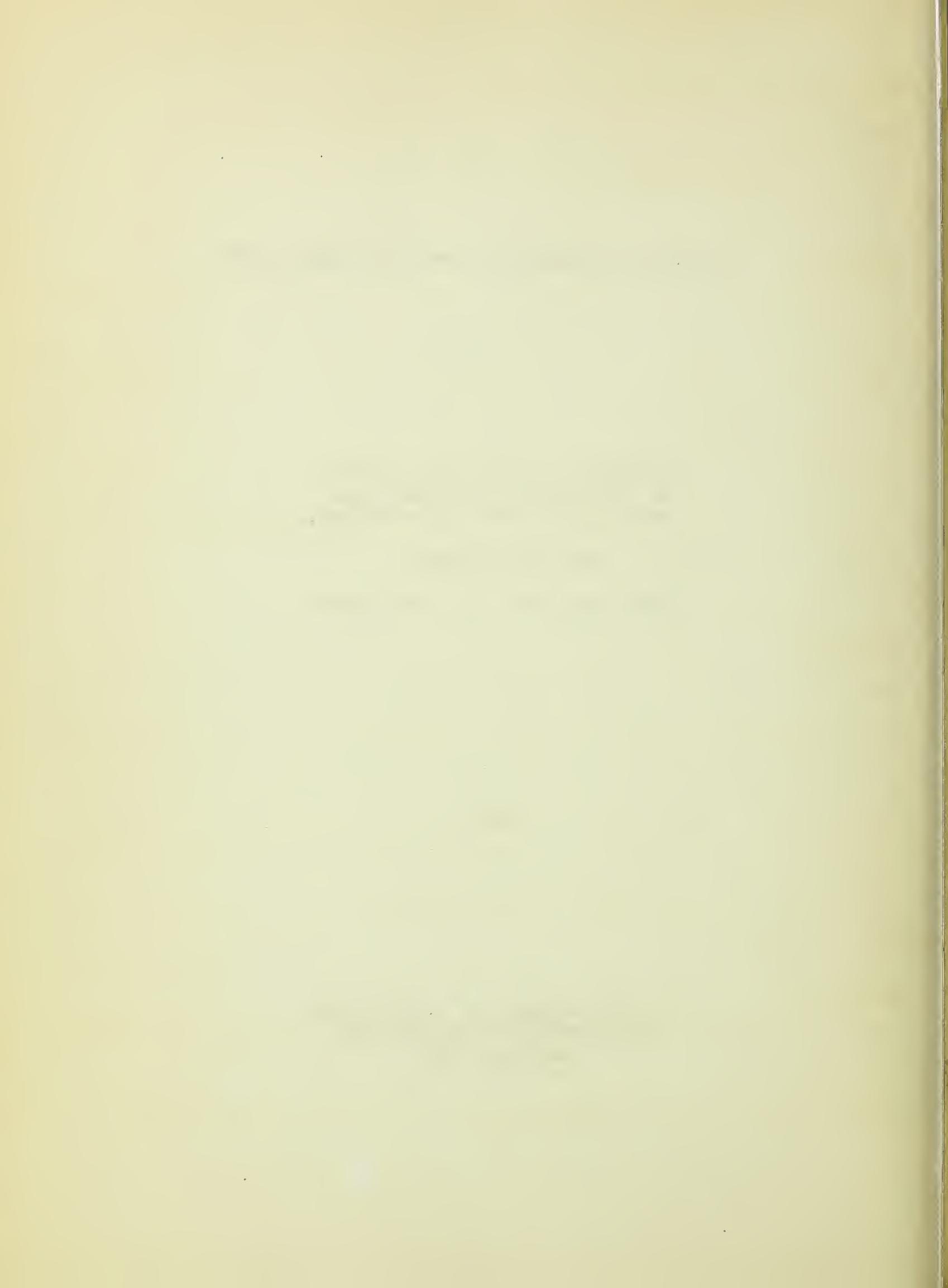
"A TYPICAL CONSERVATION-CONDITIONED FARM"

Broadcast No. 12 in a series
of discussions of soil con-
servation in the Ohio Valley.

WLW, Cincinnati

July 16, 1938 6 - 6:15 p.m.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
Dayton, Ohio



SOUND: Thunder, followed by rain...

ANNOUNCER

Fortunes Washed Away!

MUSIC: Fading...

ANNOUNCER

One hundred and seventy years have passed since Daniel Boone, like Moses from Pisgah's top, viewed "the landscape o'er", gazed out over central Kentucky, then the hunting ground of rival tribes of hostile Indians. Tall canebrakes and mighty forest growth covered the land, unbroken except for buffalo trails. Today, the verdant hills are covered with growing grain and with bluegrass--for this is the famed bluegrass region.

MUSIC: Fading...

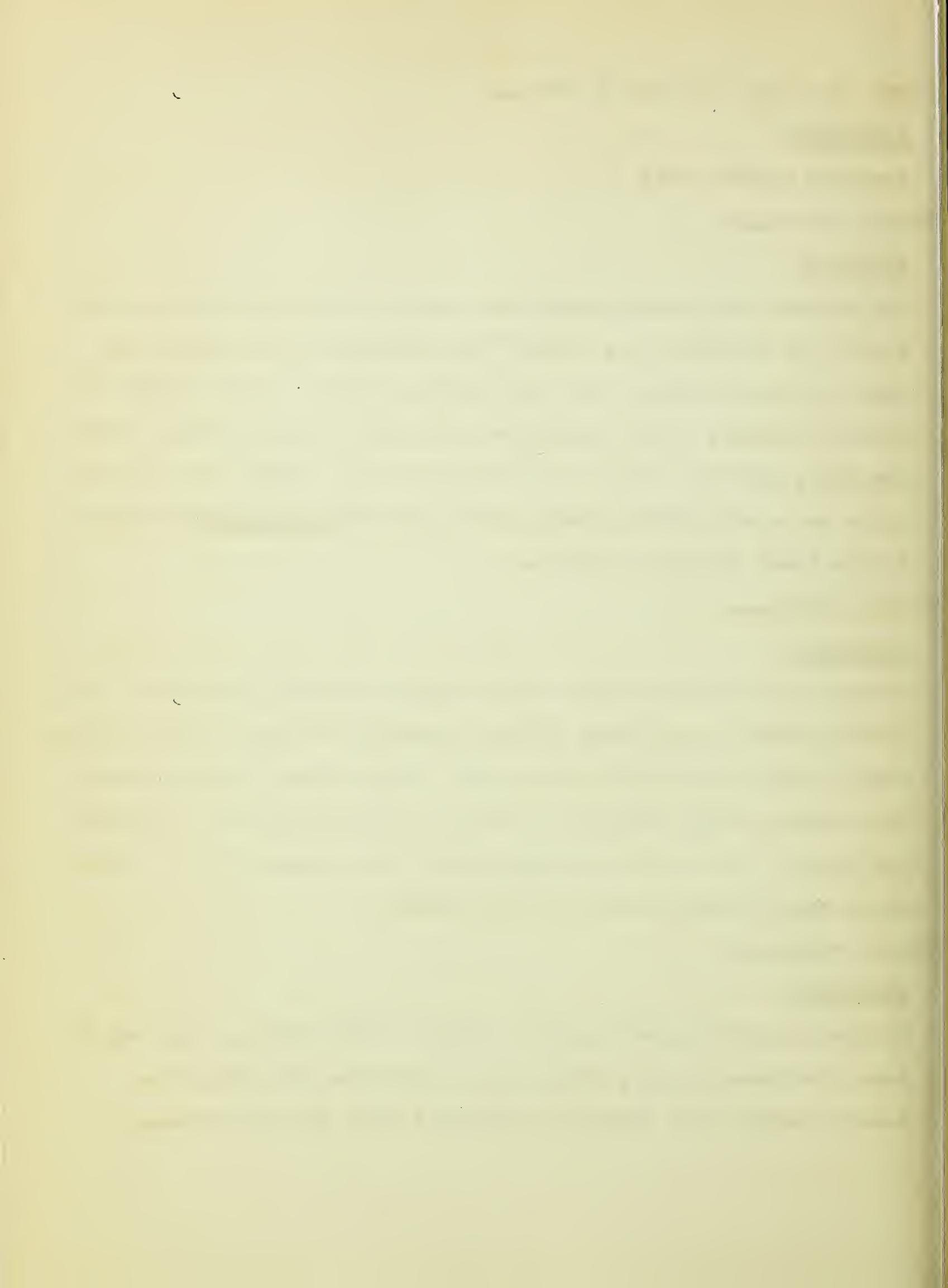
ANNOUNCER

Steeped in historic lore is the bluegrass country. Here are found Indian mounds, prehistoric relics, crumbling cabins of the pioneer. Here is Blue Licks battlefield, here is Cane Ridge meeting house, where Barton Stone founded the church of the Disciples of Christ. But each of these pales in significance when compared to the bluegrass which brought wealth to the region.

MUSIC: Fading...

ANNOUNCER

But Kentucky bluegrass is not a native of that state. Some say it came from Pennsylvania, some from Scandinavia. In 1867, Dr. Samuel Martin spoke before the Farmers' Club at Lexington...



MARTIN

In the party accompanying Boone to Kentucky, in 1769, was an Englishman, whose wife had tied up in the corner of her handkerchief, some seeds she had brought from England. These she sowed in her garden at Boonesboro. The grass increased so rapidly that she pulled it up, and threw it into an adjoining lot. Here it took root, and flourished, and in this way was it introduced to this country.

MUSIC: Fading...

ANNOUNCER

But there were those to dispute the claims of the venerable Dr. Martin. Soon after, one agricultural writer declared...

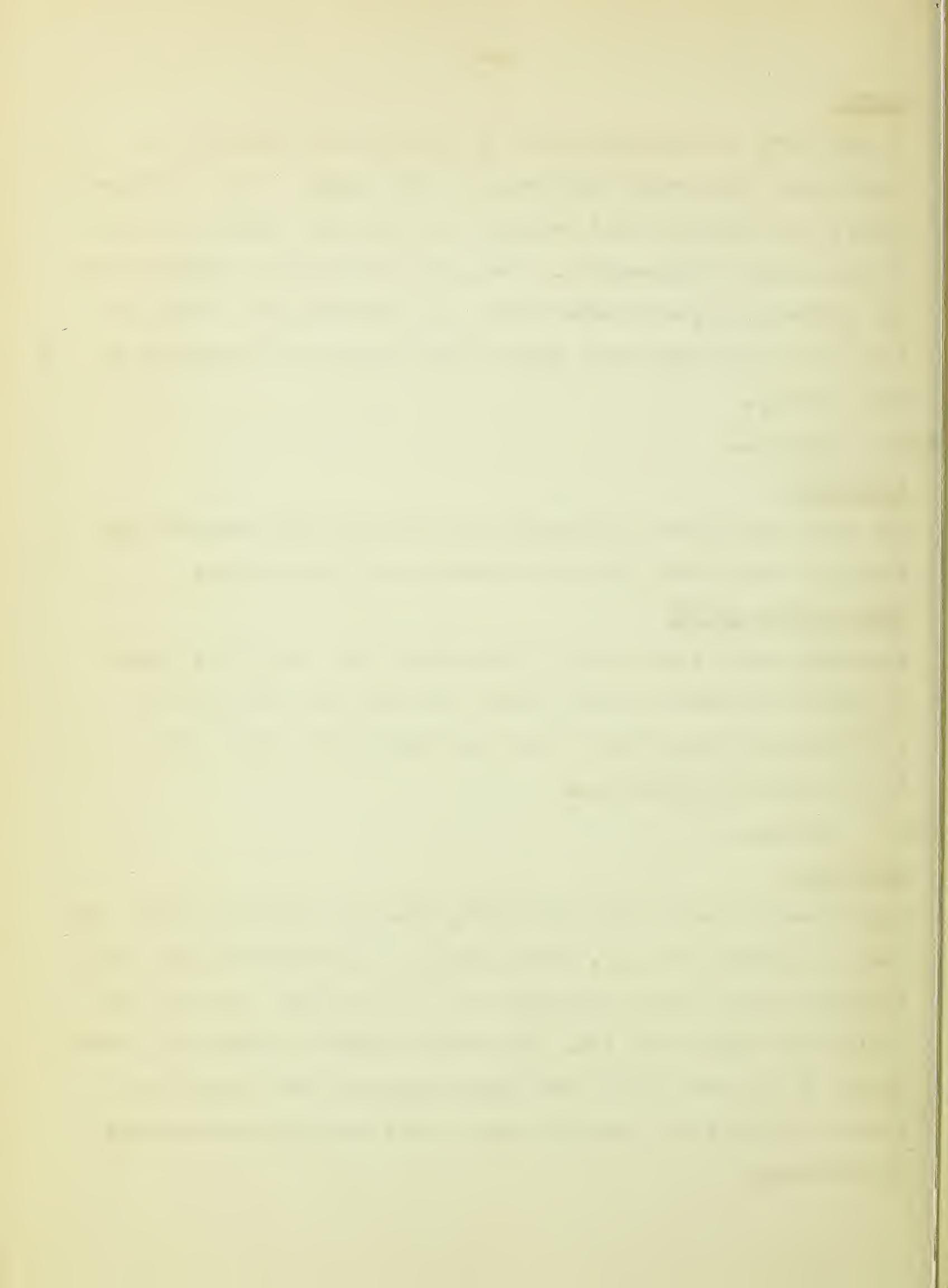
AGRICULTURAL WRITER

Pioneers packed their china in bluegrass hay. When they camped at night and unpacked their china, the seed from the hay got scattered all along their route, and this is the way it got introduced into Kentucky...

MUSIC: Fading...

ANNOUNCER

Regardless of how it was introduced, bluegrass spread rapidly over much of central Kentucky. Introduction of livestock by the white settlers caused gradual extermination of the cane. And not all fields were kept under sod. The reaper drawn by horses was introduced, as one man put it, "by oily-tongued men who induced our farmers to buy it." And soil erosion was becoming increasingly noticeable...



KENNEDY

I am convinced, Martin, the manner in which our farmers are working the land for wheat and corn is doing incalculable injury to it. The heavy summer rains are carrying away too much of the loose soil.

MARTIN

I know, Thomas, but you remember that the implements of husbandry are few. While the soil was fresh and had depth, the quality of the plowing was not so material.

KENNEDY

But the soil is no longer with depth. It has begun to be exhausted, particularly where the surface is hilly. The shallow plowing has put the soil into a condition most favorable to be washed away by the first hard rain. The land is washing into great gullies.

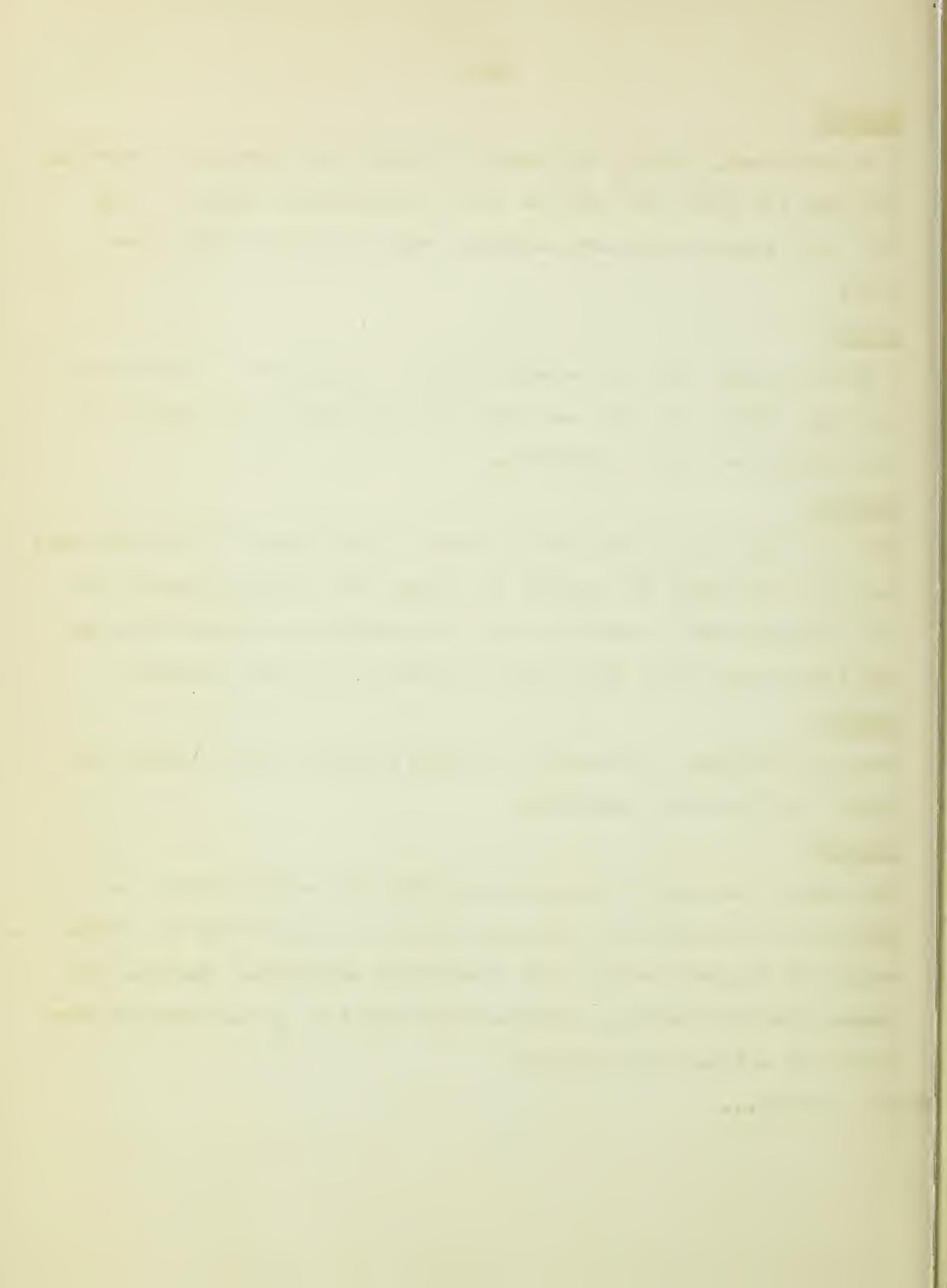
MARTIN

True, in too many instances no effort is being made to repair the waste that has been committed.

KENNEDY

And many of us seem to be possessed with the delusion that the land can be prepared for the production of grasses only by cultivating it in grain until it is completely exhausted. Martin, to reduce fruitful land to a barren condition is a gross abuse of the bounty of a beneficent Creator.

MUSIC: Fading...



ANNOUNCER

Many farms in the picturesque bluegrass country have been allowed to wash away. And many have been preserved by careful soil management. Situated on a hill known as Talbot Station, in Bourbon County, Kentucky, stands historic old "Mt. Lebanon." Almost hidden from view by the century-old cedars that surround it, this home, although one of the oldest landmarks in the state, is unknown to many. But this home, and the land which it dominates, symbolize the rugged determination of the bluegrass country--a determination to survive, to prosper.....In 1786, three years after he had come to Bourbon County from Virginia, James Garrard and his wife saw the house take form...

SOUND: Slow clinking of rocks being placed together, building a wall, continuing through following conversation...

GARRARD

How slowly the building grows. And yet, I think it will be here for a long time.

WIFE

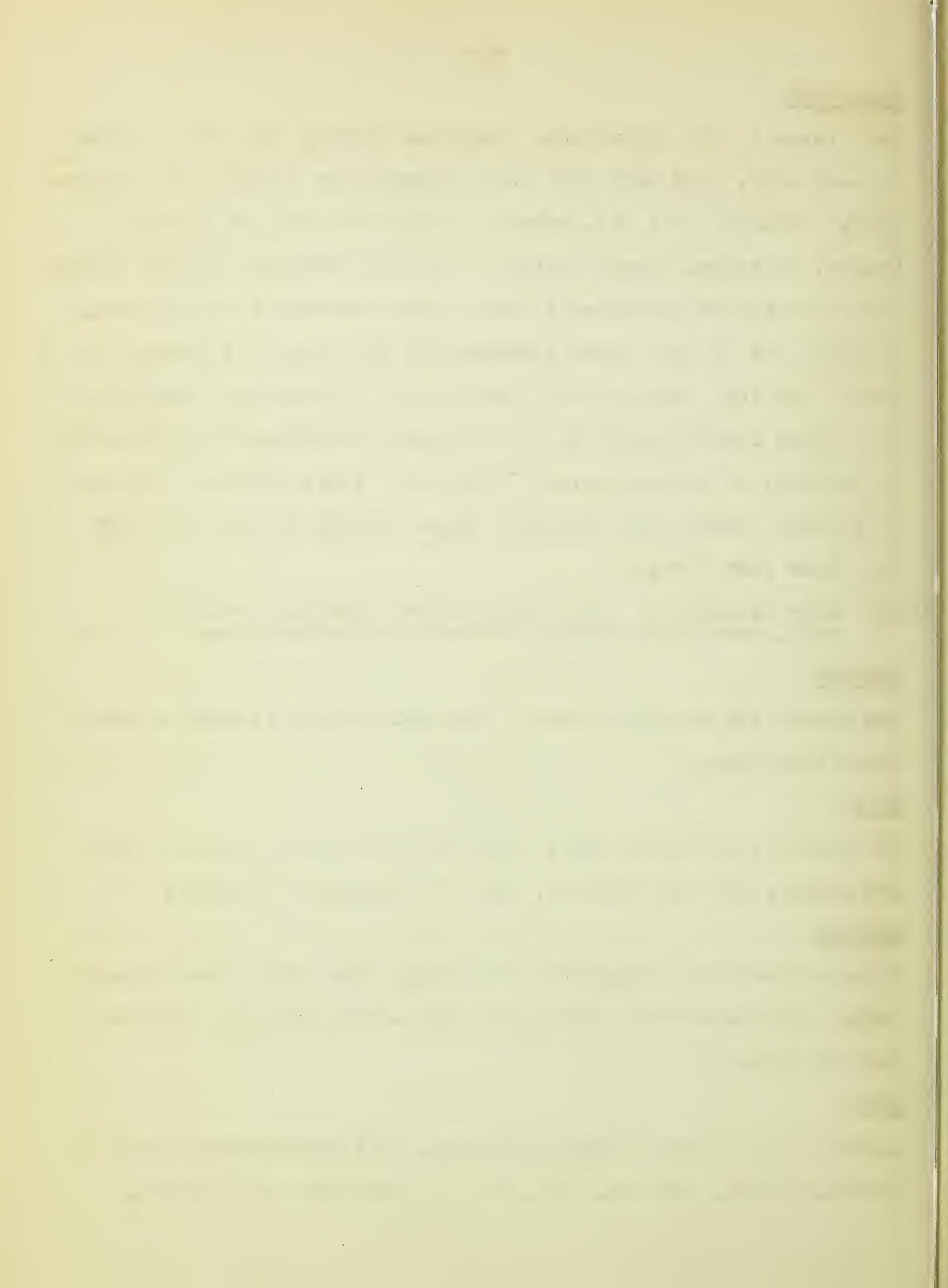
It is such a beautiful home, James, one that will house not only you and me, but our children, and our children's children.

GARRARD

It is a home that springs from the soil. The stone comes from the farm. All the wood we shall need will be cut from the woods on our own land.

WIFE

...and in each room a large fireplace. And woodwork--woodwork of cherry, walnut, and ash. Yes, it is a home that will remain.



GARRARD

What of the farm? It too shall remain! We have cleared this farm from the wilderness, and a fine fertile soil it does have indeed. It is my hope that this farm shall never pass from our family. We must keep it fresh and abundant!

MUSIC: Fading...

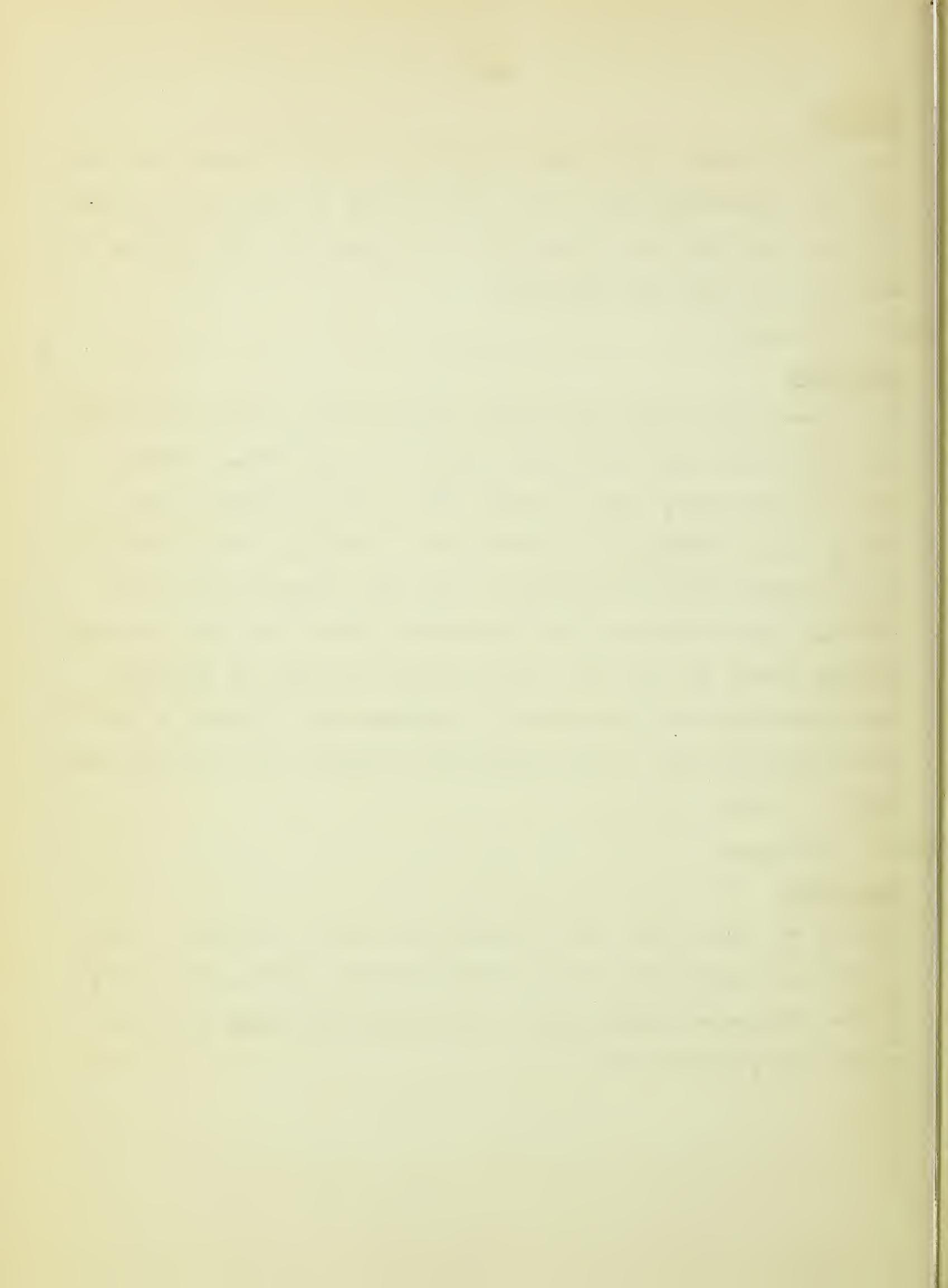
ANNOUNCER

The Garrard homestead, Mt. Lebanon, did indeed survive the years. The first court held in Bourbon County convened here. Garrard rose in prominence, rose to become the second governor of the rising state. Today, the staunch stone building, constructed in 1786, stands out as a monument to a man who thought beyond the future. And the soil on the farm was not allowed to wash down the Licking River, but has been held on the farm where it belongs. For generation after generation of Garrards have thought of the generations to come. Like historic Mt. Lebanon, the farm has been built to stay.

MUSIC: Fading...

ANNOUNCER

And now we turn to the Soil Conservation Service regional office at Dayton, and to Ewing Jones of that office. Ewing, this story of the bluegrass country and of the Garrard farm does stir the imagination, doesn't it?



JONES

It does, _____. Of course, we'd better correct one impression that we might have given. And that is, that Governor Garrard had a comprehensive soil conservation plan all worked out. Such a thing in those days was practically unknown. But through the years, the farm has been carefully handled. The Garrard family has taken pride in handing down a well-managed farm to the succeeding generations, and a well-managed farm must look out for soil erosion.

ANNOUNCER

Then the present generation of the Garrard family is working out a modern soil-saving farm plan.

JONES

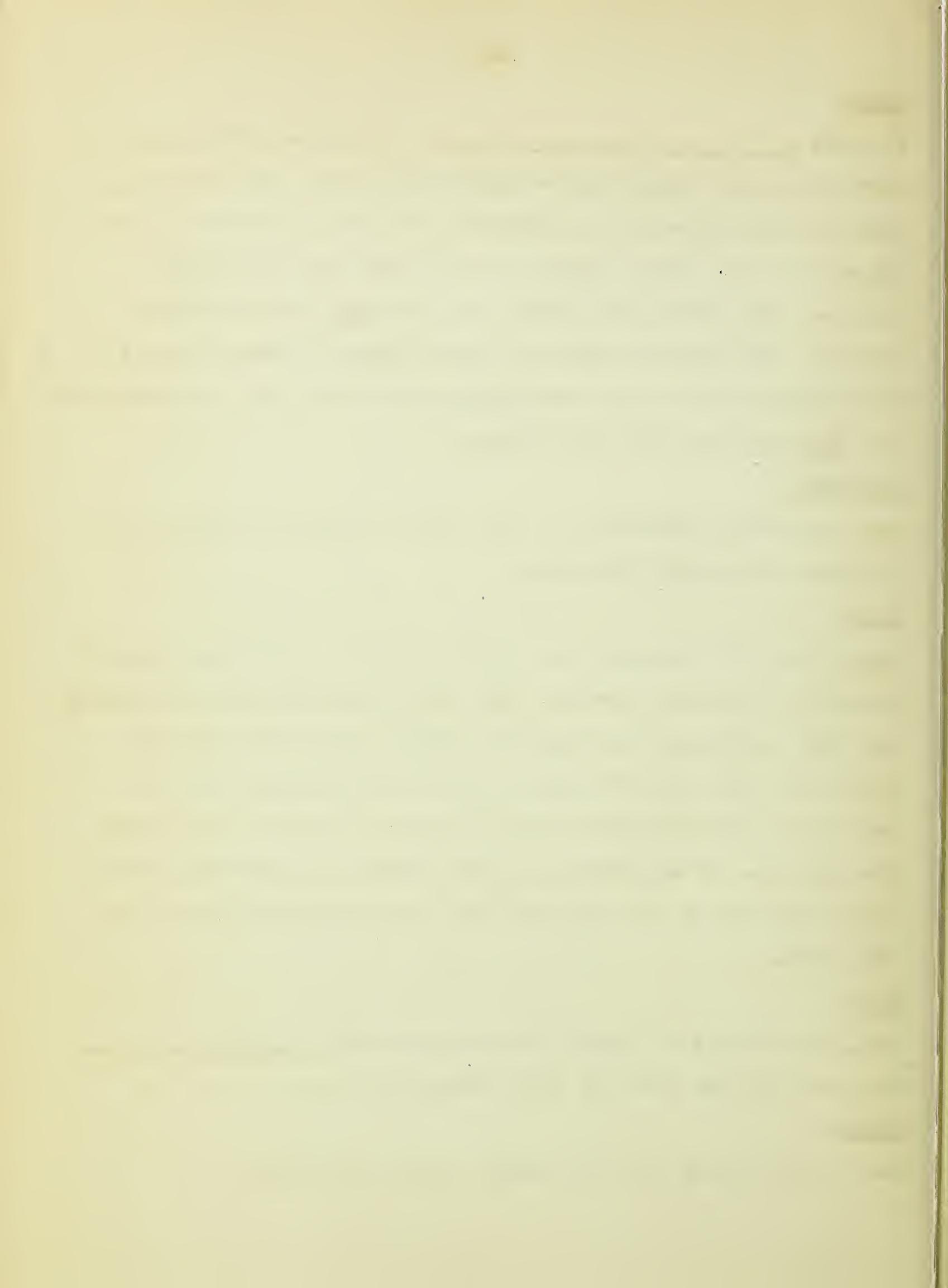
Yes, it is. The present owner of the farm is a great-great-great grandson of Governor Garrard. His name is William Garrard Talbot, Jr. He's working out an excellent erosion prevention plan in cooperation with the CCC camp at Carlisle, Kentucky, which is operated by the Soil Conservation Service. Let's see just what this plan is. It was drawn up by Mr. Talbot and David A. Shipp, conservationist at the Carlisle camp, so David, you pick it up from there.

SHIPP

Well, Mr. Talbot, it looks like Ewing and Mr. _____ have gone off and left the whole thing up to us.

TALBOT

That doesn't worry me if it doesn't worry you, Dave.



SHIPP

I guess we can bear it. After all, we worked out a complete soil erosion control plan for your farm, and that means working out a separate plan for each field on a 380-acre farm.

TALBOT

It looked like it would be a hard job at first, but you know, the more I got into it, the more I enjoyed it. I've got three boys, and I don't want them to take over a bunch of gullies and bald spots. My father left a good farm, and I'm going to leave a better one.

SHIPP

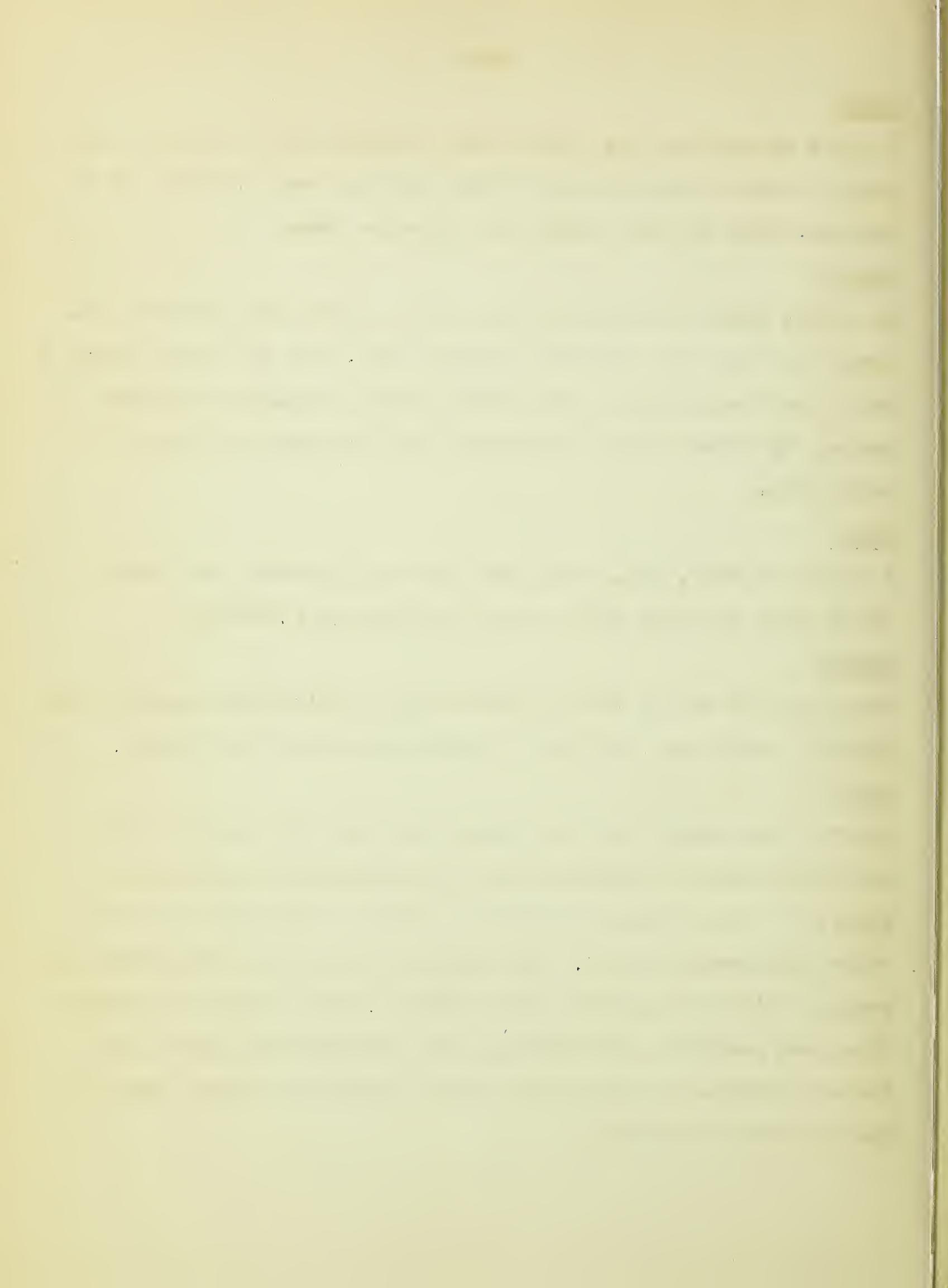
I think you will, too. Now, just by way of getting into this thing, what are your soil erosion problems, Mr. Talbot?

TALBOT

Dave, you can save a lot of stammering if you'll just describe the Carlisle work area. My farm is pretty much like the others.

SHIPP

That's a big order, but here goes. The camp area extends from Maysville nearly to Lexington and from Owinsville nearly to Berry. In other words, it takes in parts of both the inner and outer bluegrass regions. Your farm is in the inner bluegrass region, which is a gently rolling plain. It's largely devoted to bluegrass pastures, and tobacco, corn and wheat are raised to a certain extent. On the slopes, sheet erosion is active, but gullies are not common.



TALBOT

That's a swell job of describing, Mr. Shipp.

SHIPP

Thank you, Mr. Talbot. Now, let's get into what's to be done about the erosion problem. First,--but wait a minute. We started talking about your farm. What are you doing to control erosion?

TALBOT

Well, the complete plan is just getting started, and it will be several years before it's finished. But for one thing, I believe I like strip cropping best of all.

SHIPP

I'm glad you do, for strip cropping is proving to be not only the most practical, but the most popular of the many soil-saving measures we've worked out in the Carlisle area. As I recall it, every bit of your cultivated land is to be farmed in strips.

TALBOT

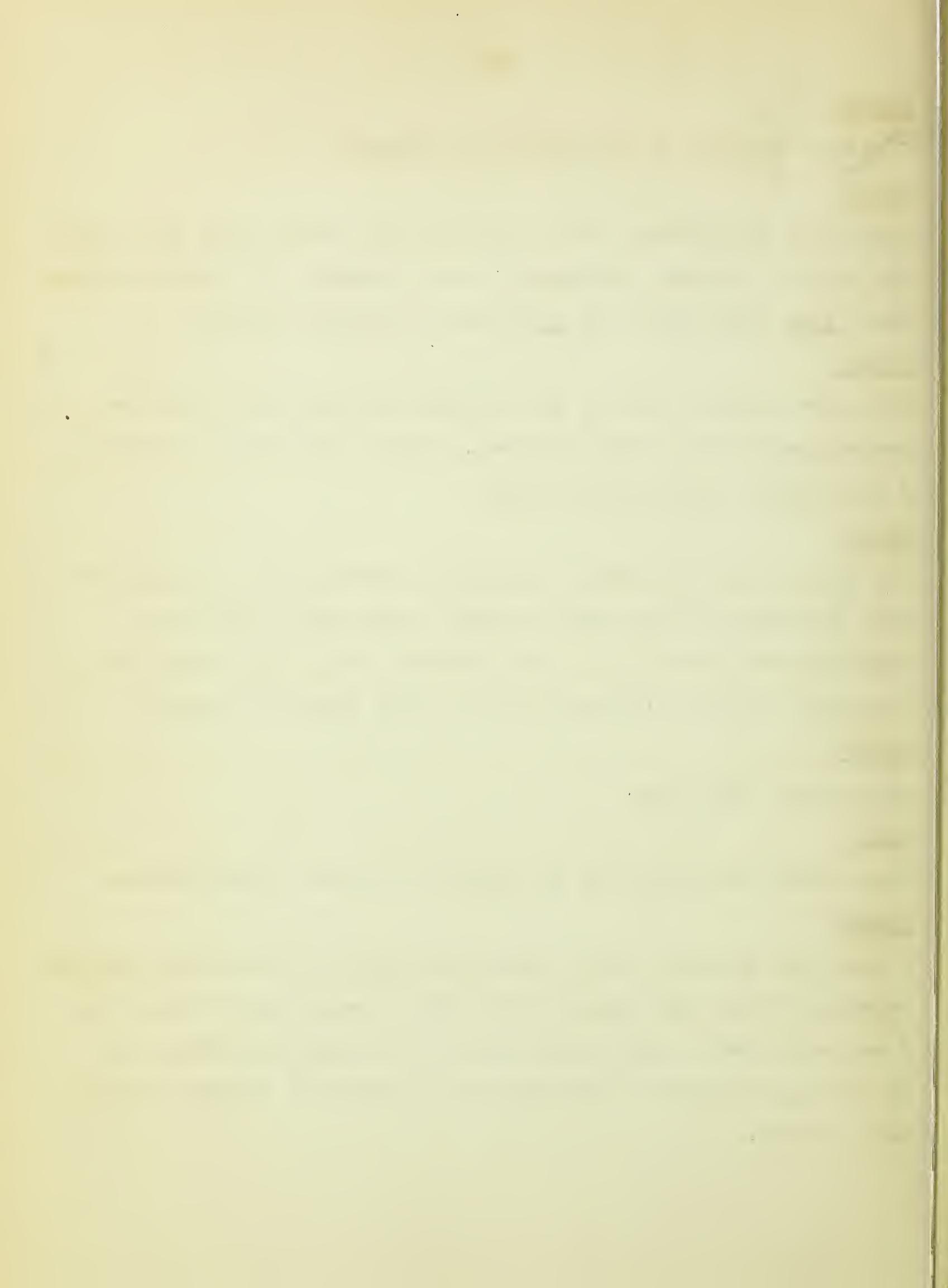
Every bit. 17 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres.

SHIPP

That should prove that you do believe in contour strip farming.

TALBOT

I sure do. Remember, we're taking out a lot of fences and combining several fields. That way, I won't have as much fence to keep up. I can cultivate on the level, instead of up and down hill. And of course, the meadow strips will do an awful lot towards stopping soil erosion.



SHIPP

Then, of course, you will have considerable pasture.

TALBOT

I'll have much more than I have now. Some of my rougher crop land is going into permanent pasture. In all, I'll have about 170 acres of permanent pasture. I'll treat it with superphosphate and manure. I also intend to practice rotational grazing on these fields. Altogether, I should be able to build up a good bluegrass sod that will feed my cattle, sheep, and horses, and at the same time keep the soil from washing.

SHIPP

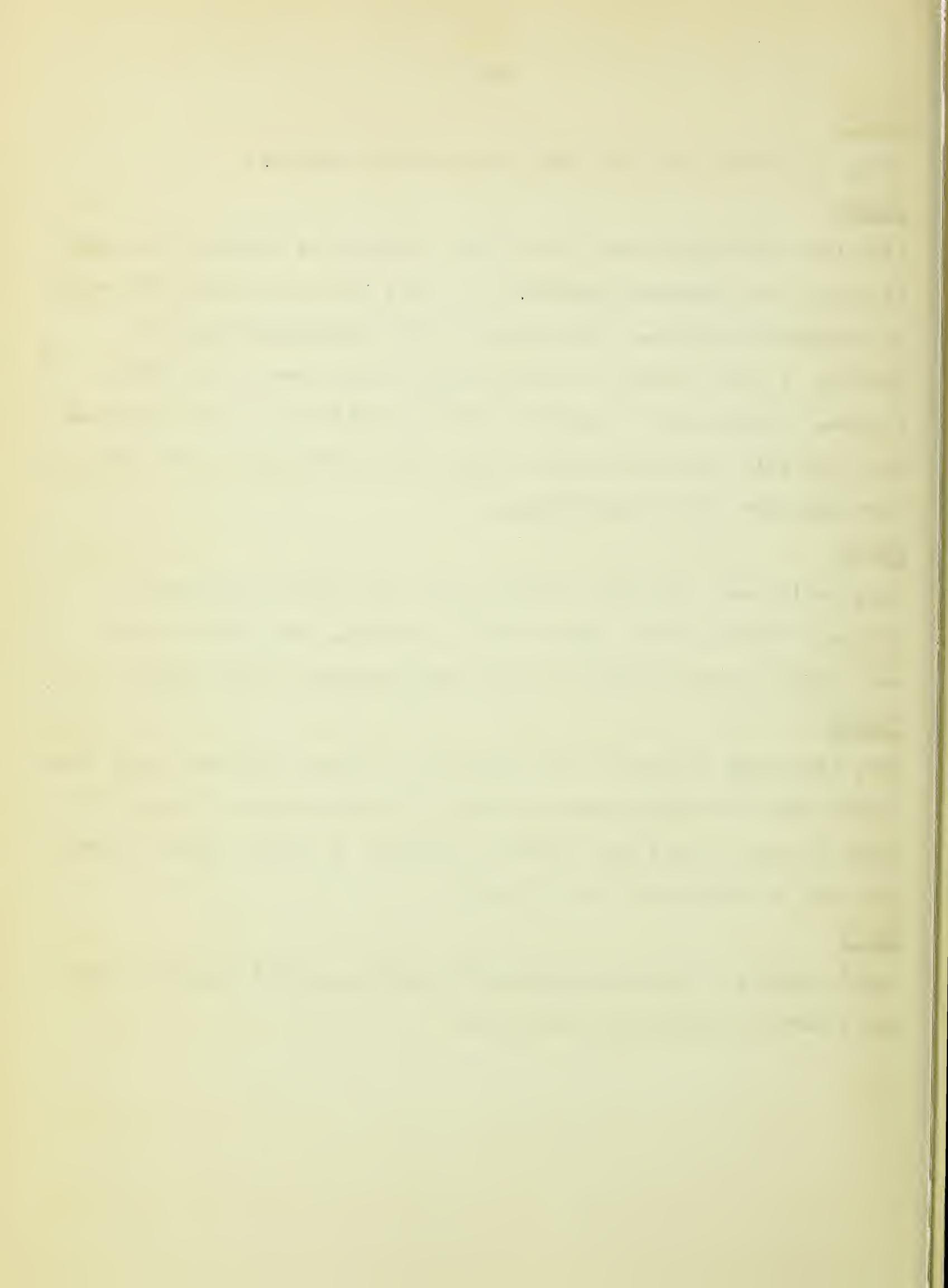
Now, let's see: you will farm all of your cultivated land in strips. You'll retire rough land to pasture, and improve your sod. Also, you're going to build some terraces, aren't you?

TALBOT

Yes, I'm going to build some terraces to divert the water away from fields where it might cause trouble. On one six-acre field, I'm going to plant trees as a wildlife refuge. A little gully control work may be necessary, but not much.

SHIPP

That's really a rounded program, Mr. Talbot, and I'm proud to have had a part in helping you plan it.



TALBOT

I certainly thank you, Dave, but I'm the one who ought to be proud. Fifty years from now, when people pass by my farm they won't see a bunch of gullies. They'll see field after field of strip cropping, and that would be just like my boys putting up a neon sign saying, "Our daddy took care of this farm." That's about all I've got to say except, I like strip cropping, and I believe in saving the soil for the generations to come.

SHIPP

Mr. Talbot, I don't know of anything finer you could say. I really appreciate it. Now, Ewing Jones just turned this program over to us without so much as saying "boo" and I'm going to turn it right back.

JONES

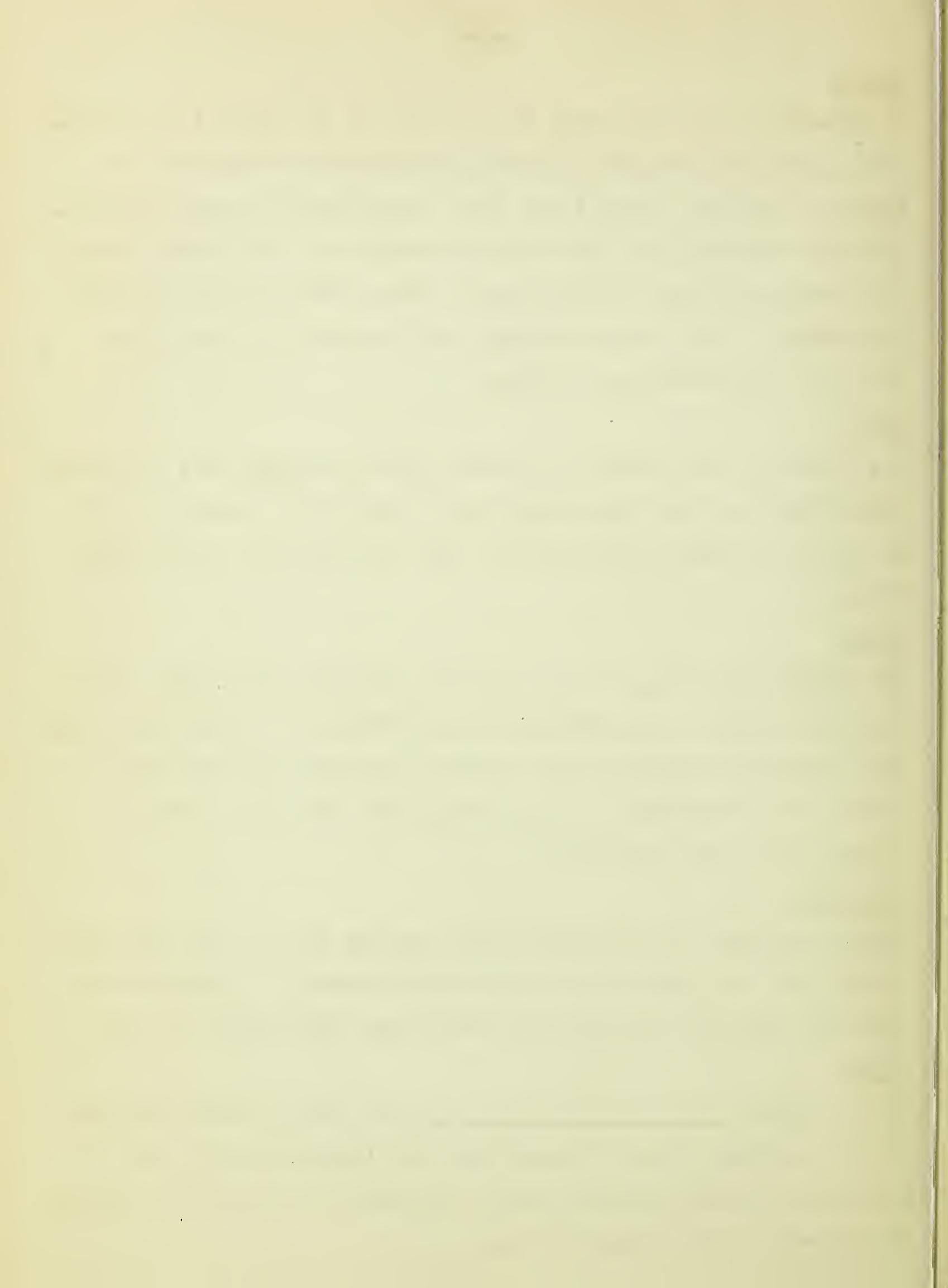
All right, David Shipp of the Carlisle, Kentucky, CCC camp. Thank you, and thank you, Mr. William Garrard Talbot, of Paris, Kentucky. Your remarks concerning strip cropping have been most welcome. I believe that thousands of other farmers who have tried strip farming will agree with you.

ANNOUNCER

Ewing, although strip cropping isn't exactly new, it has been only in the last few years that it has spread rapidly. I imagine that there are quite a few people who don't know very much about it.

JONES

You're right, . We have a recent bulletin on this subject, "Strip Cropping for Soil Conservation." It's a nicely-illustrated 40-page Farmers' Bulletin prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.



ANNOUNCER

That should cover the subject quite thoroughly, then.

JONES

It does. We'll be glad to send a copy to anyone dropping us a letter, or just a penny-postcard, to Soil Conservation, at Dayton.

ANNOUNCER

I'll repeat that. If you'd like a copy of the bulletin, "Strip Cropping," write to Soil Conservation, Dayton, Ohio.

MUSIC: Fading...

ANNOUNCER

Next week, "Shifting Sands, The Problem; Soil Conservation Districts, The Answer."

SOUND: Thunder, followed by rain...

ANNOUNCER

This is an educational presentation of the Nation's Station.

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